



County of Placer

Fish and Game Commission

11477 E Avenue ▪ Auburn, CA 95603 ▪ (530) 889-7372

District 1 – Don Gould

District 2 – Mark Fowler

District 3 – Jim Victorine

District 5 – Kari Freidig

District 5 – Mickey Daniels

District 5 – Scott Husmann

District 4 – Gary Flanagan

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 6:00 P.M.

Placer County Planning Commission Hearing Room

3091 County Center Drive, Auburn, CA

County Contact: Ed King

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Mark Fowler at 6:02 p.m.
2. **Roll Call** – Present: Gould, Fowler, Freidig, Daniels, Victorine, Husmann, Flanagan
Visitors – Marilyn Jasper.
3. **Approval of January 24, 2018 Agenda** – Freidig/Gould MPUV.
Approval of November 15, 2017 Minutes – approved with correction of Sacramento River to Feather River on page 1 and Hell Hole to Middle Bay on page 3 Gould/Husmann MPUV.
4. **Public Comment:** Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Fish and Game Commission not included on this agenda for no longer than five (5) minutes. **No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment.**
None.
5. **Financial Report**
Operational expenditures through December totaled \$2,548.
Court fines and penalty assessments through December totaled \$190.
6. **Agency Reports**
 - A. **Commissioner Reports**

Husmann – attended Auburn State Recreation Area open house forum. Reported no planned changes within general plan regarding fishing and hunting. Submitted personal comments pertaining to improved fishing access on the Middle Fork.

Flanagan – met with Husmann and Ben Ransom at PCWA to follow up on Ben's presentation to the commission in November; expressed concerns about peak flow management below Oxbow and impacts to fish and frog populations and habitat; most of the operational changes to flows are occurring above Oxbow which may not benefit downstream habitat; State Fish and Game Commission will take further action in July regarding the foothill yellow-legged frog's current status as a California Endangered Species Act candidate species. Candidate species are entitled to protections for one year while further listing action is reviewed.

Friends of Auburn Ravine finished the salmon DNA carcass study—only 7



tissue samples were collected; only about 50 fish were counted in the system this years, due to limited rainfall and low flows in Auburn Ravine; camera monitoring at Lincoln Gauging Station still underway.

DFW/County stream alteration permit workshop attended by Gary and Ed last week; Placer is the busiest county in state for stream alteration permits. Potential permittees must file applications and pay fees prior to DFWs determination if a permit is actually required or not; fees are nonrefundable. There are many situations that require such a permit; not just when altering a streambed. It is necessary to file a Public Records Act information request to receive information about enforcement cases.

Victorine – attended sportsmen's show and visited DFW booth and provided brochures for all commissioners.

Fowler asked Ed to report on Fish and Game code citations for Placer County adjudicated in 2017. A second report listed of all the citations issued in 2016 and 2017 in Placer County. Misdemeanor dismissals do not necessarily mean dismissed without a penalty; there could be forfeiture of weapons and/or community service. Outcomes are still pending for many 2017 citations. Lt. Moore plans to meet with the district attorney to discuss Fish and Game cases. Confiscated firearms are destroyed if they are not returned to owners. There was a concern to make the courts more considerate to Fish and Game cases.

B. State Fish & Game Commission Subcommittee: Mark Fowler – there is a concern in California about euthanized animals not being buried deep enough and sodium pentobarbital exposure to eagles, vultures, and other wildlife. Commercial Rock Crab fishing is extended to Salt Point, Sonoma County (from the Mexican border), closure continues north to the Oregon border. Dungeness crab season is finally opened for Northern California; it was delayed three times. The winner of Upland Game and Bird Stamp contest was an Indiana wildlife artist who submitted Wilson Snipe artwork. Recent local winter trout plantings have occurred in Folsom Lake, Rollins Lake, Halsey Forebay, and Collins Lake. DFW awarded \$39.7 million in Prop. 1 ecosystem and watershed restoration project grants – for 39 projects; the funded projects nearest to Placer are for a fish diversion screen on Butte Creek and a Truckee and American River watersheds meadow restoration planning project awarded to the Truckee River Watershed Council. Abalone season is to be closed in 2018 because of environmental conditions, wasting, and smallness of abalones.

C. Land Use Subcommittee: Scott Husmann, Don Gould – 4 applications were forwarded: lot split in residential area in Granite Bay, Lucky's Travel Plaza site improvements, Gladding Eternal Preserve green cemetery between Lincoln and Sheridan with 70 acres being developed, and a minor lot line development near Lincoln.

D. Department of Fish & Wildlife: Lt. Brian Moore - Not at last commission meeting because attending to a bear issue in Tahoe. September dove and squirrel seasons were slow with few hunters; Foresthill area access was limited in areas due to road closures. Deer season was successful with deep woods decoys in catching violating hunters; now decoys need to be fixed. Deer hunters that had bear tags did well in burn areas. Responded to a number of streambed alteration calls throughout Placer. Wildlife Officers tried to rescue a buck entangled in a hammock, but ultimately had to euthanize. Officers attended advance officer training for 5 days. Hoping for snow so that bears will hibernate. Actively checking local lakes following trout plantings.

Questions: Marilyn Jasper – were hunters using dogs to track deer? Very rare that deer are hunted with dogs in our area. Flanagan – how can we work with the courts better to get prosecutions? Maybe have a circuit prosecutor to hear Fish and Game cases; possibly cite infractions for certain violations with online payment option.

Flanagan suggested that Lt. Moore have members of the Commission participate in meeting with the DA. Trophy violators are being prosecuted under new regulations.

E. Nevada Irrigation District and Placer County Water Agency

NID: As of 1/22/18, storage = 230,600 AF; 85% of capacity and 141% of average for this date. Precipitation at Bowman = 33.53"; 98% of average. Even with December being dry the precipitation is near average; however based on the automated Snotel sites the snowpack is below average. We will be doing snow surveys next week. Hopefully the storms this week will help build the snowpack. There is still plenty of time for conditions to improve. With our reservoirs being above average in storage we do not necessarily need an average year in order to be able to make full deliveries.

PCWA: French Meadows: 43% of capacity; 57,400AF

Hell Hole: 51% of capacity; 106,400AF

Precipitation about 87% of average but Central Sierra snowpack is only about 26% of normal; National Weather Service forecasting about 12-14" of snow in the upper Middle Fork American basin this week

7-day average flows in Middle Fork American blw Oxbow: ~1,200 cfs

Folsom: 580,000AF (~maximum allowable storage)

Lower American River: 3,000 cfs

7. Informational Items

Dale MacDougall, State Wildlife Project Director and Jake Barlow, Project Manager, California Deer Association – Update on California Deer Association activities statewide and within Placer County.

Dale's main goal is to connect large-scale projects across CA; grow deer populations, protect habitat, and develop a real benefit to wildlife. Jake handles smaller project requests, works with youth education projects, assists land owners to develop habitat, install water systems, and conduct prescribed burns. Hunter harvest does not tell the whole story of deer population numbers: there are 400,000 – 500,000 deer in CA now, whereas there were 2.1 million in 1950s-60s. The Modoc deer herd was famous as a huge resource. Reasons for change include a decline in nutrients, predators, encroachment of junipers, change in range management practices, and not letting fires naturally burn; this causes different flora to establish which is not conducive to deer forage. Light in the forests is less because of the high count of trees being grown commercially, so the undergrowth that feed deer is not produced.

Banquets are used as a funding source for CDA. Many projects are supported – e.g. informing cannabis growers about the impacts on deer herds, deer warning signs, repair of small game and large game water sources, spring enclosures, invasive species control, juniper reduction, and prescribed burns. 75% of all funds raised go to on the ground projects (25% goes to administrative expenses). Guzzlers are being maintained to provide water in key areas – close to food sources. They apply collars on animals which can show the types of movement and predation impacts. Educational activities include forage seedings with kids and displays at youth events; often speak to 3,000 people at these events. Sportsman based organizations are the prime sponsors of CDA conservation efforts. They are not interested in growing deer populations so that they will have more to hunt; that is not their purpose.

CDA would like to support personal projects—what you can do in your backyard: learn to plant things that are more wildlife-friendly, do corridor cleaning, reintroduce oaks, and introduce native wildlife seed blends to improve nutritional gaps. They encourage food plots to feed wildlife in different areas and local seed harvests to be used for habitat reclamation. Explain the need to understand the dynamics of growing food crops and feeding wildlife and attracting wildlife to these areas for hunting.

CDA is also involved in large landscape scale projects and have entered into a 10 year Master Stewardship Agreement with the US Forest Service, Region 5, inclusive of all national forest lands in California. Aspen stands are critical for good nutrition for deer progeny. CDA advocates use of controlled burns to efficiently and cost effectively help create environments that are conducive to re-growth of edible plants.

Power of the volunteer – CDA seeks to learn about local project ideas and engage partners who are willing to work with CDA to implement. Local chapters of CDA use

money to fund projects such as signs or flashing lights to warn of deer crossings. There are 3 local CDA chapters locally that are interested in starting new projects.

8. Adjournment at 8:07 pm.

February meeting – Gary has speaker scheduled. Kari will adjust schedule for speakers. Next meeting is Feb 28th.